



# Community Chest Application

Improving lives and communities through our homes, care and support

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In November 2022, Radius reopened the Community Chest Grant funding programme which has been successfully running for four years. Funding is available for tenants, service users, clients and small groups and organisations working within Radius Communities.

### 1.1 Aims & Objectives

The below objectives were agreed that a project must deliver on at least one of the following outcomes:

1. It will support a community development and or empowerment project.
2. It will support groups to carry out local sustainability projects particularly around identified issues such as waste management, litter, dog fouling, environmental issues and energy efficiency.
3. It will support the development of digital and financial Inclusion projects with vulnerable groups or individuals.
4. It will support local people into Education, Learning and Volunteering opportunities.
5. It will deliver targeted health and wellbeing outcomes to vulnerable groups or individuals.
6. This year we will also be particularly keen to fund projects which propose a creative approach to support communities to collectively address areas of deprivation and need in the current financial climate. However, we **will not** fund the direct provision of money, vouchers or food.

### Essential Criteria

1. The project is in a community where Radius is represented.
2. The application must demonstrate demand for the project in the local community and consultation with residents.
3. Projects must be inclusive and accessible to all.
4. Project can show that value for money will be achieved.
5. Project must be delivered within 12 months of award.

### Applications

- Radius received 33 applications in total.
- 30 projects were successful awarding a total of £19,972.51
- 2 projects moved to our Community Empowerment Funding.
- 1 application was declined due to not meeting our funding criteria.

## **2.0 OUTCOMES**

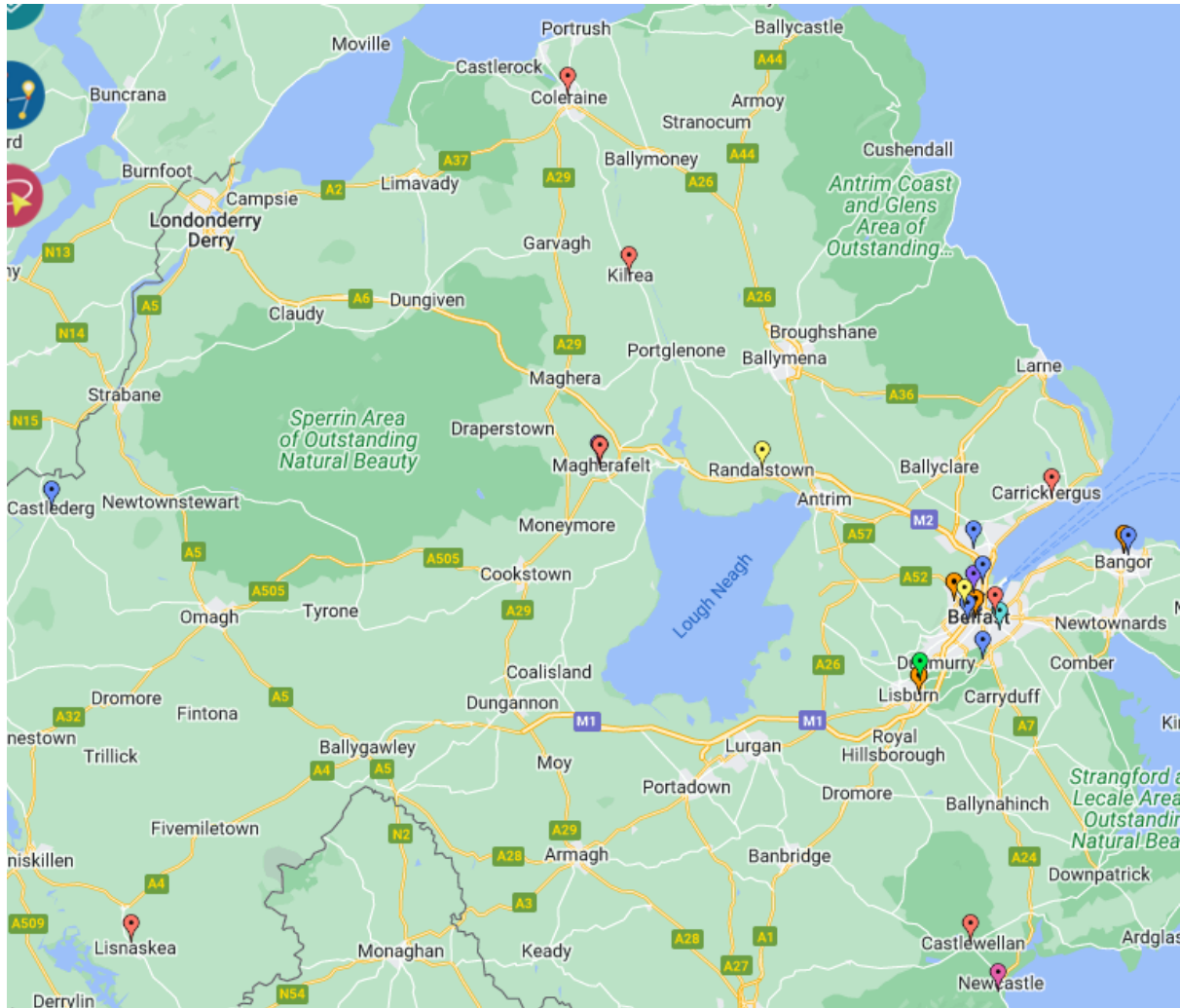
All successful applicants are required to submit an evaluation form on completion of their project. This establishes how the funding received supported their projects with 23 projects already completed and the remaining 7 projects to take place in the Autumn time.

### **2.1 Overall Impact**

The Community Chest funding supported:

- 630 participants were involved in various projects.
- 74% of all participants involved were aged over 55 with 24% reaching all other age groups
- involved 82 volunteers
- involved 15 members of staff in their organisations
- worked in partnership with 10 agencies to include Men's Shed, BHSCT, EANI and Alternatives NI
- reached a wide geographical area in both rural and urban areas as shown in the below map on page 5.
- Two CAT 1 schemes and Floating Support Newtownabbey applied and successfully received funding which shows the partnership work between Floating Support and the Community Investment Team.
- Three Housing with Care projects applied to Community Chest and received funding from the Community Chest Fund or Community Empowerment Fund, showed the partnership working between Care Services and the Community Investment Team to ensure the projects were funded.

# LOCATION MAP OF COMMUNITY CHEST FUNDS AWARDED



## **2.2 Themes required to deliver project**

As part of the projects delivered within communities, groups had to meet at least one of our themes to deliver their project. All groups received funding to support health and wellbeing projects to our most vulnerable in society. Many of the groups also met one or more of the other themes required:

- 11 groups funded supported a community to be empowered.
- 2 groups funded supported local people with education, learning and volunteering opportunities.
- 10 groups funded supported groups to carry out a sustainable project within the community.
- 2 groups funded a digital inclusion project with vulnerable groups or individuals
- 19 groups supported health and wellbeing outcomes to vulnerable groups or individuals.

## **2.3 Inclusion and Good Relations**

As part of the evaluation process, we wanted to know if the projects we funded supported the inclusion of participants protected under the section 75 group and the promotion of good relations

### *a. Inclusion of participants*

100% of groups were inclusive, ensuring that the projects they delivered included:

- persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation
- men and women generally
- persons with a disability

### *b. Good Relations*

We asked groups if the project promoted good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial groups:

- 83% of groups promoted involvement of different religious belief and political opinion.
- 17% of groups promoted good relations between different racial groups.

## **2.4 Spending outcomes**

We asked all groups if funding received was spent as anticipated. All groups that have completed their projects have spent all their funding. The condition is that groups have their funding spent and projects completed within 12 months of receiving the funding.

## **Unanticipated Outcomes**

There have been unanticipated outcomes which have benefited groups and the participants involved in projects.

a. *Reducing isolation and loneliness*

Projects have supported participants to come together which has helped reduce loneliness and isolation. Friendships have formed between tenants who have been living within the scheme for many years and tenants who recently moved in especially with more male tenants getting involved in the projects which are a particularly hard group to get involved in projects.

b. *Continued involvement*

When the funded project ended a number of tenants have continued to meet regularly and participate in their own art classes which will have long term benefits.

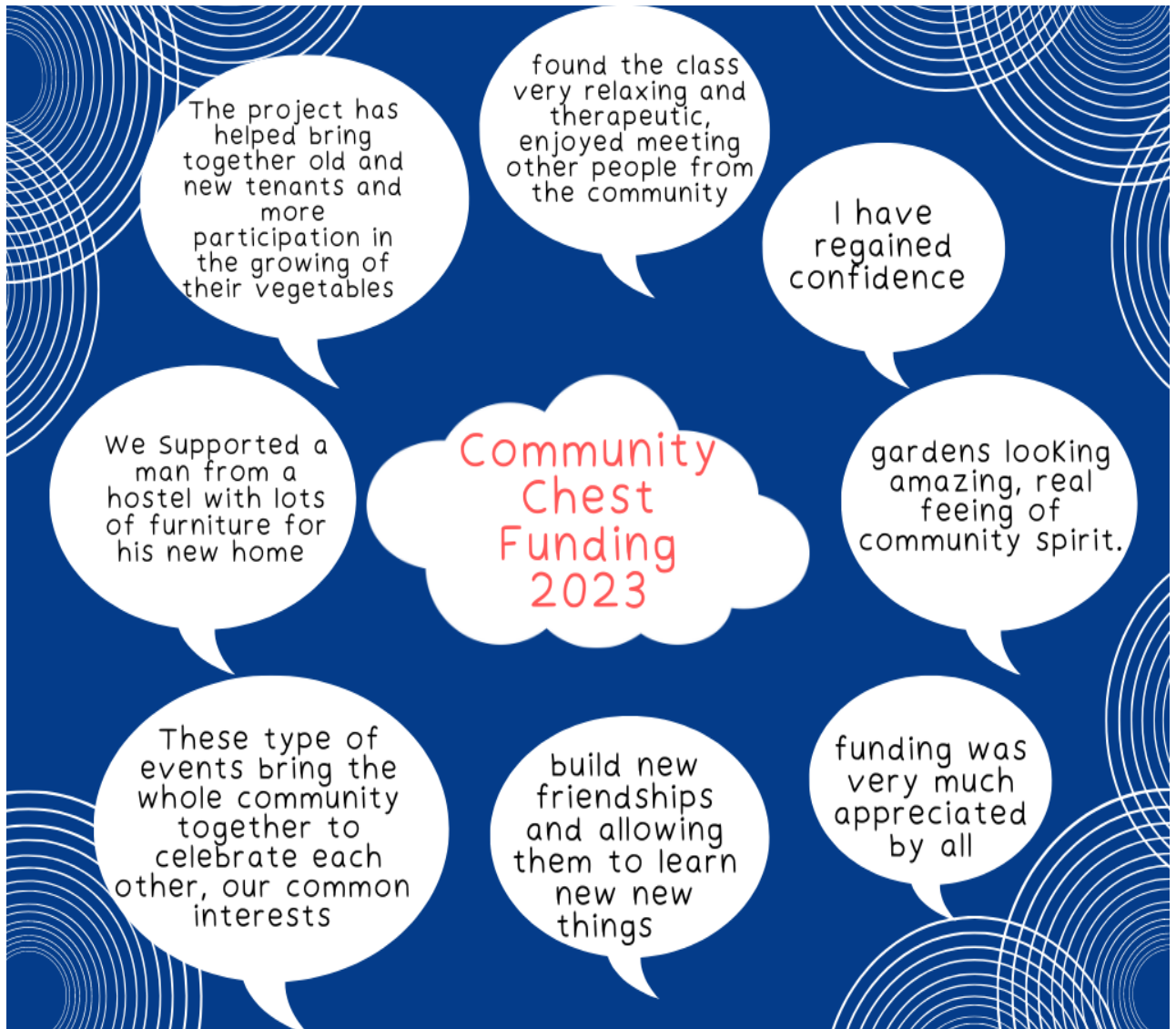
c. *Health & Wellbeing*

Supporting participants with health and wellbeing has helped improve the stigma attached to mental health conditions enabling participants to talk openly about their feelings.

d. *Building relationships*

Tenant Engagement attended a meeting at Forthriver Fold with tenants who were unhappy with Radius Housing and the lack of funding opportunities in their local area. Tenant Engagement explained the opportunity for the group of tenants to collectively apply for Community Chest funding. Resulting in the group applying for funding with the support of their Housing Officer and successfully receive a grant for their chosen project. This has helped build relations between tenants and Radius.

## TESTIMONIALS





## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **3.1 Administration**

For items that have been purchased online it is important that groups ensure all items ordered have been delivered as per the invoice and that items are in working order. This will ensure if there are any items missing or broken the Tenant Engagement Team can make contact with the company to reorder or ask for a refund within the timeframe allocated.

A recommendation from last year was to hold an information session online to support groups applying for Community Chest funding. This year the Tenant Engagement team offered 3 Community Chest Information sessions in the morning, afternoon, and evening time to accommodate all attendees which included groups within the local community, as well as some Radius Staff members. The information sessions included an overview of the Community Chest Application form and what applicants should include, some helpful tips and hints, followed by a question-and-answer round to allow participants the chance to voice any concerns or ideas when applying. These information sessions were proven to be successful having had a total of 13 participants who attended the sessions found them beneficial when applying for Community Chest funding and we will continue to run them every year.

## **4.0 CONCLUSION**

The Community Chest Fund continues to have a positive impact in communities across Northern Ireland ensuring tenants, service users, clients and small groups working within Radius have an opportunity to be able to apply for funding from £250-£1000.

# EVALUATION FORM

## Community Chest Evaluation 2022-23

**As a condition of receiving funding from Radius Housing Community Chest you agreed to adhere to Radius's post monitoring, evaluation and reporting form based on information provided by you on the application form. Please include receipts, invoices, and photographs with your evaluation form. (Please ensure photo permission forms are completed)**

**We use your feedback and comments for internal auditing purposes and share on our social media platforms for publicity purposes.**

\* 1. Name of group

\* 2. Details of group

Name of Group	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Town	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>

\* 3. What age groups did your project support?

- Under 18  
 18-24  
 25-34  
 35-44  
 45-54  
 55+

\* 4. Did your project support or promote the inclusion of participants protected under any of the following section 75 group?

- persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation  
 men and women generally  
 persons with a disability  
 persons with dependents

\* 5. Did your project promote good relations between

- persons of different religions
- political opinion
- or racial group

\* 6. How much of a grant did you receive from the Community Chest Fund?

\* 7. Was funding spent as anticipated?

- Yes
- No
- If no please let us know why?

\* 8. Please describe in detail what the purpose of funding was for your project?

\* 9. Was the amount of funding received adequate to deliver your project?

- A great deal
- A lot
- A moderate amount
- A little
- None at all

10. Outline how your project achieved value for money?

\* 11. Please tick ALL the themes your Community Chest came under?

- Funding Supported a community development and or empowerment project
- Funding supported your group to carry out local sustainable projects
- Funding supported the development of digital and financial inclusion projects with vulnerable groups or individuals
- Funding supported local people into Education, Learning and Volunteering opportunities
- Funding supported health and wellbeing outcomes to vulnerable groups or individuals

\* 12. How many **participants** were involved in the project?

\* 13. How many **volunteers** were involved in the project?

14. Please list the number of **Radius staff** involved in the project if any?

15. Please list if any other agencies were involved in your project?

16. Has this project brought any other wider benefits for your group?

Please tell us more

17. If funding was a long term project how are you intending to sustain this in the future?

(Skip if not applicable)

\* 18. Did you attend any of the Community Chest information sessions?

Yes

No

19. If you did attend the information session did you find it beneficial?

Yes

No

Have you any suggestions on what we could do differently?

20. Did the Tenant Engagement Team offer support when you were going through the application process?

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21. Please include testimonials from participants who benefitted from the funding

22. Have you any suggestions on what we could do differently?

## Community Chest 2022- 23 Applications Funded

*In this financial year £19,972.51 was awarded to 30 groups*

<b><u>APPLICANT</u></b>	<b>GRANT AWARDED (£)</b>	<b>PROJECT INFORMATION</b>
Castlewellan Studio Players	£860.10	Support the production costs to include hall rental, licence fees, printing of booklet and flyers for a local drama school to produce a play for the local community.
Meadowell Fold	£730.00	Fund 5 Sessions of arts and crafts classes for tenants and Floating Support Service Users together in Meadowell Fold, Magherafelt.
Forthriver Fold	£707.16	A planting project to include a greenhouse which will be installed by volunteers of the Greater Shankill Community Council.
North Down Boxing Club	£1000	Provide subsidised session costs to ensure disadvantaged children within the local area can attend boxing classes.
Mid Ulster Agewell	£1000	Facilitate exercise sessions to promote health and wellbeing while socialising for older persons living within Mid Ulster area for 8 weeks.
Loopland Fold	£347.98	Purchase equipment and refreshments to start a weekly Bingo session for the tenants of Loopland Fold.
Winchester Court	£769.10	Purchase themed arts and crafts to run weekly classes for the tenants of Winchester Court.
Toberdoney Fold	£743.90	Purchase garden furniture, dart board and TV to give the tenants social group a choice of activities to participate in to bring them together.
Tonic Fold	£448.00	Purchase of 4 garden planters and a variety of seasonal flowers for the tenants of Tonic Fold to run a gardening project together.

Newtownabbey Floating Support	£624.00	Purchase of 8 Slow Cookers with ingredients to run programme of budget friendly cookery classes for Service Users.
Rathain Fold	£688.15	Provision of goods to support an intergenerational gardening programme in partnership with a local primary school.
Inverna Fold	£500	Purchase of flowers and plants to encourage tenants to spend quality time with each other out in the gardens.
Mount Vernon Court & Bungalows	£647.43	Gazebo, Bingo Equipment and Hobby games for the tenants to use indoors and outdoors which will promote inclusion and health and well-being.
Belsize Court	£219.39	Provision of outdoor equipment which will encourage the tenants to meet and sit outside together.
Glen Fold	£238.77	Bingo equipment to run a weekly Bingo Afternoon encouraging the tenants to socialise together in the common room.
Street Soccer	£1000	Provision of PAT Testing kit for Street Move Social Economy Business who support local communities with low-cost transport removal services and supply of donated white goods.
Neillsbrook Fold	£749.00	Purchase of a Greenhouse which will be installed in partnership with Randal Community Men's Shed.
Moylinney	£300.94	Purchase of games to encourage the tenants within Moylinney Court to come together to spend quality time with each other in the Communal areas.
Fergus Fold	£205.94	Purchase of flowers and plants to encourage tenants to socialise and spend quality time with each other in the gardens.
Abbotts Court	£1000	7 Sessions of Musical Educational and Wellbeing Workshops for the young adults living within Abbots Court.
Belvoir Community Hub	£1000	Funding 25 Counselling and Holistic sessions for participants attending Health & wellbeing sessions within Belvoir Community.
Nettlefield Mens Wellbeing	£576.00	Fund 16 weeks room hire to allow men in the local East Belfast area come together as part of a project to improve health & wellbeing.

Drumhaw Fold	£641.00	Fund gardening materials, refreshments, and music for the tenants within Drumhaw Fold to come together for a gardening project and spend quality time together outdoor at an afternoon event.
An Droichead	£960.00	Fund a Spring event engaging with the local Radius residents and surrounding area informing them of the services available at An Droichead.
Social Change Group	£800.23	Fund a 6-month Mindful bodies programme offering health themes, sessions & workshops with advice, advocacy, support and signposting.
Families with Autism Coming Together	£1000	Fund 20 places for young people aged 13-19 on the Autistic Spectrum in Mid Ulster to attend a support programme on living skills.
Dean Crooks Tenant Association	£543.00	Fund 3 sessions on British Sign Language and Deaf Awareness and refreshments for 15 tenants at Dean Crooks Fold.
Derg Fold	£350	Purchase of flowers and plants to encourage tenants to socialise and spend quality time with each other out in the gardens at Derg Fold.
DEPAUL	£671.56	Wellbeing therapy sessions for Pinetree Manor residents and Cloverhill service users.
Tearmann Fold	£650.86	Gardening materials and equipment to support gardening project for tenants living within Tearmann Fold.

